

The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the

Talent Historical Society

Where The Past Meets The Future

206 East Main, Suite C • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, Oregon 97540 • 541/512-8838

September 2001



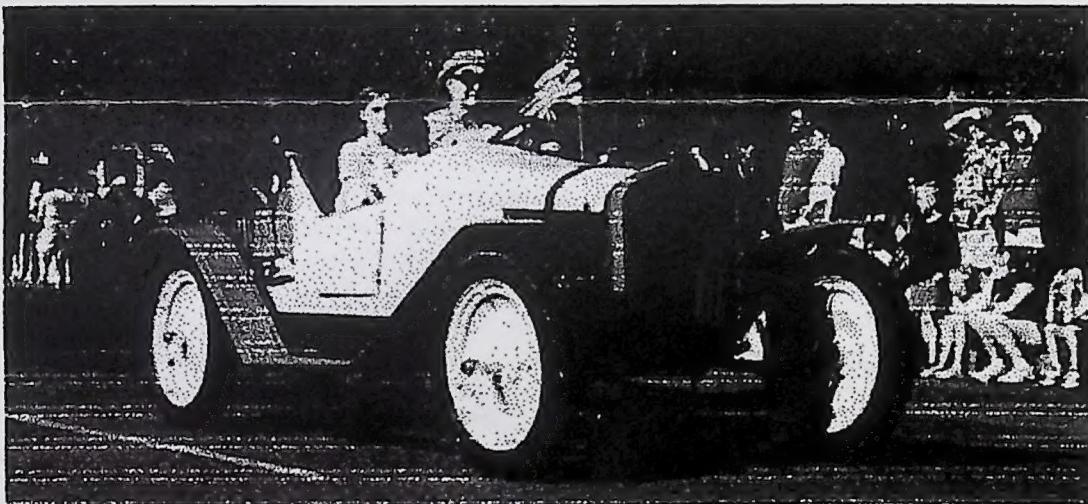
HARVEST FESTIVAL TIME SEPTEMBER 8

Well, folks, it's Harvest Festival time once again. Seems like we just cleaned up after the last one. How time flies when you're having fun!

The Harvest Festival committee is planning some fun activities for you to enjoy this year. There'll be a "Guess the Number of Candies in the Jar" contest, a cake walk, a raffle for a gorgeous hand-made quilt, and a "Pick Your Costume" photo booth, among other things.

There'll be lots of street vendors with a variety of goodies to feast your eyes, and maybe your tastebuds, on. There'll be music to enjoy, friends to visit with, and a good time will be had by all. Come on out to the Festival, Saturday, September 8, in beautiful downtown Talent.

Parade Entry in the 1999 Harvest Festival



NEEDED: MORE ROOM!

Have you been in the THS office and museum lately? If so, you know we need more room!! We are really feeling cramped in the small space we have. We have no room to have a "real" museum, a nice gift shop, research area, and so on and on.

Folks, if you know of anyplace that we might move to, keeping in mind our very limited budget, please let us know! What would be great is if someone left THS in their will, donating a historic home or other building to the Society. In case that doesn't happen right away we want to start a serious building fund campaign. If you'd like to donate a special gift to the Building Fund, please come by or put your donation in the mail, marking it Building Fund. If you have any skills at fundraising, let us know that, too. We need all the help we can get!!

DIVORCE PETITION, 1858

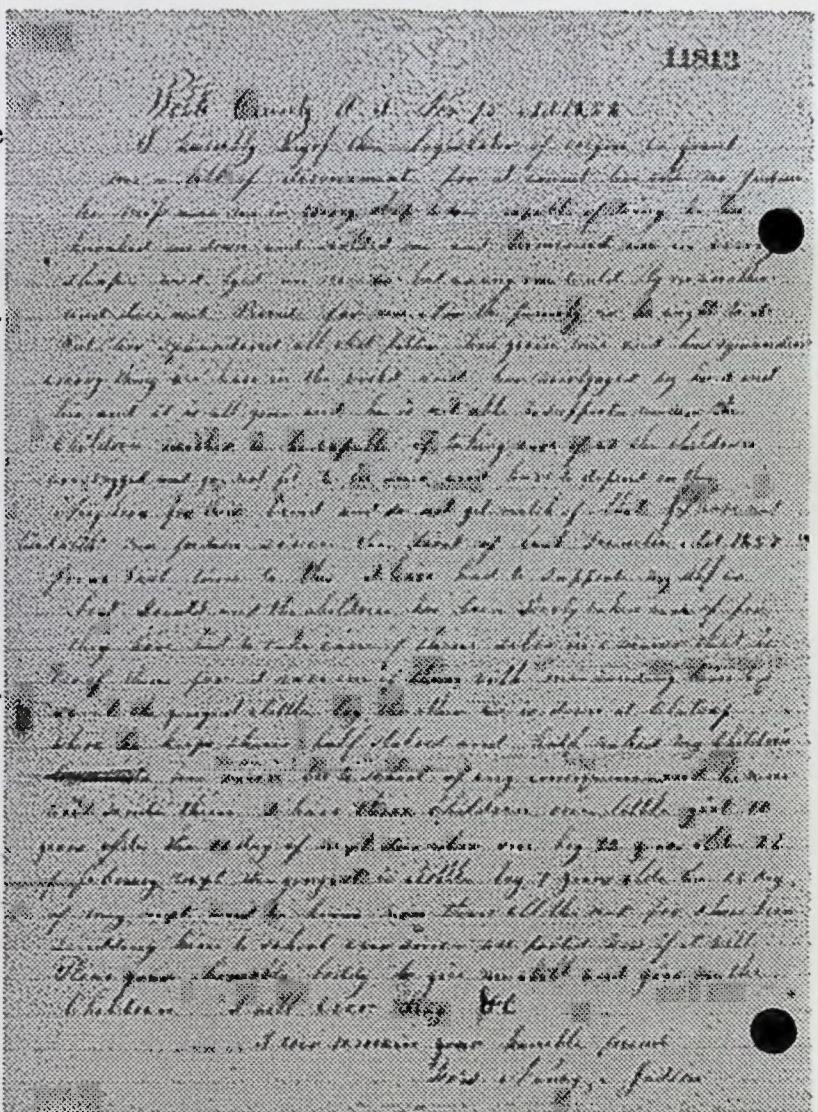
Transcript of original document:

Polk County O.T. Nov 15 Ad 1858

I humbly Beg o f the Legislator of oregon to grant me a bill of divorcement for I cannot live with Mr Judson he misuses me in every shape he is capable of doing he has knocked me down and scolded me and beemeaned me in every shape and lyed on me as bad as any one could lly on another and does not Provide for me Nor the family as he aught to do But has squandered all that father has givin mee and has squandered every thing wee have in the world and has mortgaged my land and his and it is all gone and he is not able to support me nor the Children neither is he capable of taking care of us the children are ragged and go not fit to bee seen and have to depend on the Neigbors for their bread and do not get mutch of that I have not lived with Mr Judson since the first of last December Ad 1857 from that time to this I have had to support my self as best I could and the children has been Poorly taken care of for they have had to take care of them selves in a maner that is too of them for I have one of them with me sending him to scool the yongest a little boy the other too is down at Clatsap where he keeps them have stalved and half naked My Children has never bee to school of any consequenc and he never will sene them I have three children one little girl 10 years olde the 10 day of next december one boy 12 years olde 22 of February next the yongest is alittle boy 7 years olde the 26 day of may next and he knows more than all the rest for I have been sendding him to school ever since wee parted Now if it will please your honerble boddy to give me a bill and give me the Children I will every Pray ec
I ever remain your humble friend
Mrs Nancy Judson

Background

Getting a divorce required an act of the legislature in Oregon Territory. Women found it difficult to obtain a divorce as long as they were economically dependent on their husbands. This petition to the legislature recounts the poor treatment that Nancy Judson received from her husband. Mr. Judson has lost the land that his wife brought to their marriage, he has abused her and their children, and he has abandoned her. Mrs. Judson points out that the two children in her husband's custody are kept half-starved and half-naked, and have not been sent to school. These circumstances caused the legislature to grant her the divorce.





BRIC-A-BRAC

Welcome

THS welcomed two new members into the Society in the past couple of months. They are:
Diane Lane and Freddy Lou Barneburg

Former THS member Dorothy Nelson passed away recently. We extend our sympathies to her family.



Diane Lane has joined us as a volunteer. She has a lot of energy and a friendly personality. We're so happy to have her enthusiasm.

The exhibit in the **THS** museum for July and August is writing instruments. On display are a variety of old pens, nibs, inkwells, letter openers, a very old typewriter and other related objects. Come in and identify our mystery object!

Check out our new website at <http://home.earthlink.net/~thsmuseum>. I think you'll like it! Our new email address is: thsmuseum@earthlink.net

FROM JOSEPHINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sep 7 - First Friday Art Night in the Schmidt House Barn 6-9PM (Subject TBA)
No charge

Sep - Theater Vignettes - Living History Players
- exact date not set yet

Oct 20 - Death & Fiesta 3PM, Schmidt Barn -
History, stories, slides and folk art -
No charge, OCH sponsored

Oct 27 - Cemetery Tour 5PM, IOOF/Masonic Cemetery - Living History Players
bring the spirits of Josephine County back to life.

Nov 2 - First Friday Art Night, Schmidt Barn, 6-9PM - "Names That Live On and Lost Soles"
Photography by Jean Boling No charge

Nov 18 - Annual Meeting & Potluck - Public Welcome - Schmidt Barn 1PM

How about your schedule? We will be coming out with our quarterly newsletter the end of August; would love to include other exhibits, etc.

Jean Boling
President-Elect (and Newsletter Chair)
Note: This is all the information we have on these events. If you'd like to attend something, call the Josephine County Historical Society for more information.

Help!

The Talent Historical Society is in real need of more volunteers. Especially needed are museum hosts/hostesses. It's not hard and we'll coach you on what to do. You don't even have to stay there the whole four hours—you can split the shift with another volunteer. Husband/wife teams are welcome, or if you want to pair up with a friend, that's great, too. Another niche to be filled is the calculation of museum and volunteer hours each month. We need these stats for our records. It's only about a 30-minute job once a month, but a vital one. We also need someone who would be willing to come in clean the office once a week—just sweep/vacuum the floor and maybe dust the windowsills, or whatever. It's not a big room! If you have some extra time and a love of history, your help would be of great value. For more information, call the Society at 512-8838 or come by the office to find out what other opportunities are available.

PROJECTS FOR FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

October is Family History Month. This is a good time for extended families to get together, pull out the old photo albums, get out the tape recorder or video camera, and relate stories of family heritage. The older members of the family can tell the younger ones all about the "good old days, when I had to walk five miles to school in three feet of snow—and it was uphill both ways!" Seriously, though, the only way we know what happened in our grandparents' era is from listening to their stories, right? And the only way our kids and grandkids will know what our lives were like, plus those of our parents and grandparents, is if we take the time to tell them, and in such an interesting way that they want to listen.

Here's a few ideas for preserving your family's heritage:

1. If your photos aren't already in albums, spend a few evenings together arranging them, being sure to write on the backs of the photos.
2. Tape record older family members while they tell stories.
3. Video record Grandma showing her dishes, knick-knacks, and other family heirlooms while she tells where each one came from and what its significance is.
4. Take a trip to cemeteries where family is buried.
5. Drive past former homes or the places where the home used to be. Make a list of addresses or locations of all the places you've lived.
6. Make a family tree. For those with computers, there are several ways to do this. One is to use a ready-made genealogy program. If you don't have one, you can just type in the information in a document using such programs as PageMaker, Word, Works, etc. For those without a computer, get or make forms to fill out, or use a large sheet of butcher paper.
7. If you have Internet service, go online to one of many genealogy sites and do a search on your family name. You can meet family you never knew about in this way!
8. Make a family quilt, putting each person or family's name on a square. Put the generation you begin with in the center. If you have old photos, you can take them to a copy shop and have them copied to heat transfer paper. You can have them apply the transfer to your quilt block, or take it home and do it yourself with a hot iron.
9. If a family member fought in the Revolutionary or Civil War, a trip to a battlefield would be great. Or if they were in another war, there may be a memorial or other significant site, such as the place where they were stationed in the States, that would be interesting to visit.
10. Most of all, have fun!



The Historacle is published quarterly by the
Talent Historical Society
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Photographers	Steve Ray/Majestic West
Newsletter Layout/	
Graphic Design	Alice Ray/Majestic West

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, The Historacle, by mail or by e-mail thsmuseum@earthlink.net. Members of the Society receive The Historacle free with membership.

DON'T MISS TAMASTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE

WHEN YOU VISIT EASTERN OREGON THIS FALL

Talent Historical Society members who are planning a trip to Eastern Oregon this fall should plan to visit the new "Coyote Theater," the first exhibit most visitors will see when they enter the \$18.3 million cultural center operated by the Confederated Umatilla, Walla Walla and Cayuse Tribes. The Tamastslikt Cultural Institute is located four miles east of Pendleton on the Umatilla Indian Reservation. The word "tamastslikt," pronounced tuh-must-slicked, means interpret or translate. And that is just what the Coyote Theater attempts to do.

The theater is in the shape of a teepee, but boasts padded benches which seated visitors use to look up at a simulated night sky as "coyote stories" are recounted by tribal people and multimedia illustrations are cast on the teepee walls.

In the tradition of the Columbia Plateau tribes, the mythical Coyote can be lazy, scheming, cowardly or heroic. He is not worshipped by these tribes but is considered an instrument of the Creator whose behavior mirrors the human condition.

Besides the "Coyote Theater" the institute houses a library; photo archives; a wing where century-old deerskin shirts, woven baskets, saddles and other artifacts are stored; a 200 seat theater/conference room; a place where students may learn the Nez Perce language; and, of course, a gift shop. When the cultural institute opened in 1998 some 21,000 people visited the center; 1999 more than 42,000 people came; last year attendance was over 50,000, and more than 60,000 are projected for this year.

Story telling, a regular feature of the Institute's programs, is not just for the entertainment of those touring Eastern Oregon, but as Bobbie Conner, the director of the Institute pointed out, "We want too not only show the culture, we want to perpetuate it!"

The Tamastslikt Cultural Institute is open daily from 9:00 to 5:00. Children younger than five are admitted free, while admission for adults is \$6.00, but seniors and students are admitted for \$4.00. Members with Internet connection may contact the Institute at www.tamastslikt.com.

I DON'T BELIEVE ONE COULD SLEEP THROUGH THIS

There is some kind of twang-twang song whose refrain goes, "Life gets teju, don't it?" However, that could not have been the case on Monday December 27, 1891, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Morris who lived on the North fork of the Siuslaw River. A news article gleaned from the Florence, Oregon newspaper, The West, published on January 1, 1892 explains why tedium could not have been involved.

A MIDNIGHT PROWLER

Monday night as Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Morris were wrapped in the arms of Morpheus and slumbering peacefully, their slumbers were aroused rather unceremoniously by the intrusion of a giant fir tree into their peaceful household.

It seems that near their residence, which is on the North Fork river, is quite a high mountain upon which are growing several large fir trees. During the heavy wind of Monday night one of these trees blew over and slid down the mountain side striking one end of the house and ran clear through it before this huge fir's locomotion was brought to a standstill. In passing through the house, the tree passed under the bed in which Mr. and Mrs. M. were sleeping and completely demolished the bedstead, but fortunately the occupants were uninjured, the springs and mattress on the bed raising them to a point a few inches above the course of the tree.

RULES FOR GENEALOGY

1. Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestors as equals ...even if some of them were in jail.
2. Death certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died.
3. When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no make-up, and look like you have about a week to live...the funeral director will give you anything you ask if he thinks you may be a customer soon.
4. The cemetery where your ancestor was buried does not have perpetual care, has no office, is accessible only by a muddy road, has snakes, tall grass, and lots of bugs...and many of the old gravestones are in broken pieces, stacked in a corner under a pile of dirt.
5. A Social Security form SS-5 is better than a birth certificate because few people had anything to do with the information on their own birth certificate.
6. The application for a death certificate you want insists that you provide the maiden name of the deceased's mother...which is exactly what you don't know and is the reason you are trying to get the death certificate in the first place.
7. If you call Social Security and ask where to write for a birth certificate, tell them it is for yourself...they won't help you if you say you want one for your great-great-great-great-great-grandfather who died in 1642.
8. When you contact the state vital statistics office in your home state and ask if they are "on-line" and they respond, "on what?," you may have a problem.
9. A census record showing all twelve children in a family proves only that your ancestors did not believe in birth control.
10. Work from the known to the unknown. In other words, just because your name is Washington doesn't mean you are related to George.
11. With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write...and may have left something written about themselves.
12. It ain't history until it's written down. (See #19)
13. A genealogist needs to be a detective. Just give me the facts, ma'am.
14. Always interview brothers and sisters together in the same room. Since they can't agree on anything about the family tree, it makes for great fun to see who throws the first punch.
15. The genealogy book you just found out about went out of print last week.
16. A good genealogical event is learning that your parents were married.
17. Finding the place a person lived may lead to finding that person's arrest record.
18. It's really quite simple. First you start with yourself, then your parents, then your grandparents...then you QUIT...and start teaching classes in genealogy.
19. If it's not written down, it ain't history yet. (See #12)
20. In spite of MTV, computer games, and skate boards, there's always a chance that your grandchildren will learn how to read someday.
21. "To understand the living, you have to commune with the dead, but don't commune with the dead so long that you forget that you are living!"

Ken Jackson



OREGON TRAIL---JUST A FEW RANDOM FACTS

The Oregon Trail has been immortalized in Oregon's state song, depicted in hundreds of shoot-em-up Western films, described by historians and sociologists, and now has become the focus of attention by thousands of tourists annually who flock to a scores of interpretive centers and historical monuments that now mark the trail's courses (for there were more ways west on the Oregon Trail than one!) from Missouri to Oregon--a distance of some 2000 miles. Just for fun, here are some facts about the Trail followed by those pioneers who settled the Rogue River valley and other valleys in Oregon.

How many emigrants came down the trail?

Probably about 500,000 and it has been estimated that about 1 out of every 250 emigrants left some sort of a written account--2000 diaries, journals, and memoirs.

How long was the Trail?

Roughly 2000 miles.

How long did it take to get from the Missouri River to Oregon?

Anywhere from 4 1/2 to 6 months--most took 5 months. The time was variable due to: weather, sickness, accidents, grass availability, condition of the stock (oxen, horses), weight of the wagons, skill of the emigrants, etc.

How many days did it take to get to California and Oregon?

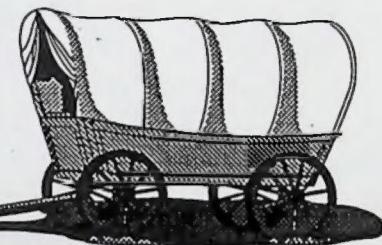
1841-1848 California --157.7 days. Oregon -- 169.1 days

1849 California -- 131.6. Oregon --129.0

1850 California -- 107.9 Oregon -- 125.0

1850-1860 California -- 112.7. Oregon --128.5

1841 to 1860 average: California: 121.0 days. Oregon: 139.6 days.



What was the South Pass?

The South Pass was the easiest way to cross the Rocky Mountains in central Wyoming. It is a high pass, but virtually flat. Interestingly enough, it was discovered by Robert Stuart and his group returning to the "States" from Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River in 1812-13. The discovery of the pass from the eastern side is credited to Jedediah Smith (after whom the two Smith Rivers here on the Coast are named--the one in California near Crescent City, and the one near Reedsport, Oregon). He and Thomas Fitzpatrick used the Pass in 1824.

When did the first wagons come West?

The Bidwell-Bartleson Party is usually named as the first true emigrant train. They left Missouri in 1841 in the company of Catholic Fathers Jean Pierre DeSmet and Nicholas Point, and were guided by the aforementioned Thomas Fitzpatrick. The party split up at Fort Hall (Idaho): some went on to Oregon following the Snake River, and the others went down Nevada's Humboldt River on the way to California. The latter group did not get any wagons to California having abandoned them on the way.

When did the first major wagon train reach Oregon?

In 1843 the first large wagon train of emigrants got to Oregon: people now well-known to students of Oregon history who were on that train were Jesse Applegate and his brothers, Peter Burnett, and missionary Marcus Whitman who was returning to his mission station in Southeast Washington west of present Walla Walla.

How many emigrants died from Indian attacks on the Oregon Trail?

From 1840 to 1860, the figures which are probably low estimates are that 362 emigrants were killed by Indians. Some 462 Indians were killed by emigrants, and that estimate is also probably low, too.

Note: This is too long to print in its entirety in one issue. I'll put more of it in next issue.

BRIEF HISTORY OF JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

The Territorial Legislature created Jackson County on January 12, 1852, from the southwestern portion of Lane County and the unorganized area south of Douglas and Umpqua Counties. The county was named after President Andrew Jackson.

Jackson County's borders originally ran south to California, west to the Pacific Ocean, east to Lane County, and north to Umpqua and Douglas Counties. Over the years, the boundaries of the county were changed reflecting the creation of Coos, Curry, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, and Wasco Counties. Currently, Jackson County includes 2,801 square miles and its boundaries extend to California in the south, Josephine County in the west, Douglas County in the north, and Klamath County in the east.

Modoc, Shasta, Rogue River, and Umpqua Indian tribes lived within the present boundaries of Jackson County. Moreover, in the early 1850s, both the Klickitats from the north and the Deschutes from the south raided and settled the area. Gold discoveries in 1850s and completion of a wagon road south and Douglas County to the north led between the Americans and Indians led to casualties and the removal of the Rogue the next two years, several small bands of Ronde Reservation west of first county seat in 1853.



the Rogue and Illinois River valleys in the connecting the county with California to the to an influx of non-native settlers. Conflict war in 1856 resulting in hundreds of River tribe to the Siletz Reservation. During Indians were transferred to the Grande Salem. Jacksonville was designated as the

However, the city declined due to diminishing returns in the local goldfields and the construction in the 1880s of the Oregon and California Railroad which bypassed the city. Medford, located five miles west of Jacksonville, benefited from the location of the railroad and the accompanying commerce and development. Jacksonville fended off suggestions to move the county seat until 1927 when Medford was finally selected as the county seat.

The first county courthouse was a white two story frame structure built in 1854 in Jacksonville. In 1883 a two-story red brick building was built and served as the courthouse until the county government moved to Medford in 1927. A new courthouse was dedicated in 1932 and continues to house county offices in Medford. In 1978 an addition was put on the three-story courthouse.

The first county officials were appointed in March, 1853. These officers included three county commissioners, a county clerk, a sheriff, a prosecuting attorney, and a treasurer. An assessor, sheriff, and surveyor were later added. The voters of Jackson County approved a home rule charter at the general election, November 7, 1978. The primary organizational change was a governing body consisting of a board of three commissioners which constitutes the legislative and principal policy making agency of the county. The board of commissioners also oversees the administration of the affairs of the county. The elected officials include the county commissioners, the sheriff, the assessor, the treasurer, the clerk and the surveyor. Jackson County is represented by Senate Districts 23, 25, and 26; Representative Districts 46, 50, 51, and 52; and the Second Congressional District. Its 1997 population of 169,300 represented a 15.7% increase over 1990.

The county's principal industries are lumber, agriculture, manufacturing, and recreation. Its major points of interest include the Shakespearean Festival, Historic Jacksonville, Southern Oregon University, the Peter Britt Music Festival, the Rogue River, Lithia Park, and the Crater Lake Highway.

OREGONIANS READ EARLY!

The first library in the Oregon country was established at the Red River settlement in 1816. The Fort George library of 50 books (Fort George was one of the early names for Astoria) was transferred to the Hudson Bay headquarters at Fort Vancouver in 1821. The Multnomah Circulating Library was in operation in Oregon City in 1842, and the Territorial Legislature established a Territorial Library in 1848 with the primary purpose use by territorial government officials.

DOWNSTREAM CALENDAR

"If we forget where we came from, we will never get to where we are going!"

Talent Historical Society Museum,

Talent Community Center.

Museum Open hours:

Mon.—Sat. 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Sept. 8, 2001 Saturday 9:00 a.m.

Talent Harvest Festival

Sept. 25, 2001 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Talent Library.

Board meeting of the Talent Historical Society directors. Members and general public invited to attend. *Note change of day/time.*

Sept. 30, 2001 Sunday 1:30 p.m.

Talent Community Center

Annual Membership Meeting. General public invited.

Oct. 23, 2001 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Talent Library.

Board meeting of the Talent Historical Society directors. Members and general public invited to attend.

Nov. 27, 2001 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Talent Library.

Board meeting of the Talent Historical Society directors. Members and general public invited to attend.

ORAL HISTORY EXCERPT

from the Evelyn Nye interview

"...Well, during the war, Gene Thorndike was head of the First National Bank and he was a friend of ours. Gene would come over, I'd go in once a month and deposit the little check that the Army sent me for my husband's service and Gene would always come over and talk to me. One day he said, 'I've got an idea for you and Steve. This war's going to be over pretty soon and I think you ought to be doing something else, ought to be doing something.' And he suggested that we buy some other orchards. I said, 'That's up to Steve. I can't make that decision.' A few days later, next month, he came over again and said, 'I've got another idea.' He said, 'You know, Joe Naumes is in the Pacific.' He was an officer, he was in the war, too, but he was in the Pacific. He said, 'Steve is going to be out of this war presently. He's one of the best orchard men in the valley and he should be doing something.' And he said, 'Joe Naumes has had packing house experience in South America.' And he said, 'The war in the Pacific is going to be over one of these days, too.' And he said, 'Now if we could get those two together, I think we'd have something.' And I said, 'Now I think you're talking, Gene! Sounds like a real good idea.' So, sure enough, it happened. They both, the boys both got home, and we sat around in our kitchen in the house in town and worked out details of a business where we would pack and ship fruit, you know, and became Nye and Naumes Packing Company, and they did a great business. ..."



Evelyn Nye





TALENT ARCHIVES NEED HELP FROM MEMBERSHIP

WANTED: PICTURES OF TALENT SITES, MEMORIES OF TALENT
WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY

The Talent Historical Society attempts to document the changes which have taken place in the Talent area since pioneer settlement in the 1850s. Since the Society's ability to display objects from the past is limited due to space requirements, much of the collecting work of the Acquisition Committee, and much of the effort of the staff and volunteers as focused on the collection of pictures, taped oral interviews, documents, and similar materials that can be either stored in filing cabinets or on computer disks.

To this end, we ask that members of the community and former members of the community consider making available photographs of Talent past so that the Society make copies of them for the Society; or if the person wishes to donate the photographs, to the historical collection, that would be deeply appreciated by the Society. The scanning process that we use to copy your photos doesn't harm your original photo in any way. If you don't wish to let your photos out of your sight, we will scan them while you wait (provided someone capable is in the office when you come in).

In similar fashion, one of the historical interests, sparked perhaps by the efforts to honor Talent women, is one that deals with military service. Ever since the American Revolution, women have served in various military capacities—consider Betsy Ross, and during the Civil War several women hid their gender beneath a uniform and actually engaged in combat. We would like to record the women of Talent who have served in the military forces of the United States...or with other country's forces, if the individual has been a Talent resident. Please contact Marion Angele, Museum Director, or Alice Ray, Office Manager at the Talent Historical Society. The Society's phone number is 512-8838.



TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Happy
Harvest!



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